

BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus U.S. House of Representatives Jim Nussle, *Chairman*

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

19 July 2004

Week of 19 July 2004

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) Honoring Sandra Feldman on the Occasion of Her Retirement from the Presidency of the American Federation of Teachers for Her Tireless Efforts to Improve the Quality of Teaching and Learning (H.Res. 714).



This resolution has no budget implications.

2) To Amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to Extend the Authorization for Certain National Heritage Areas (H.R. 4492).



This bill extends the authorizations for nine heritage areas to be eligible to receive Federal funds for 15 years, expiring on 30 September 2027, instead of the end of fiscal year 2012. These areas also would be eligible for an additional \$10 million in Federal matching funds, for a total of \$20 million each, subject to appropriations. This bill neither increases direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – nor reduces revenue.

3) Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2004 (H.R. 4625).

This bill reduces the royalty rate to 2 percent – applicable at point of shipment to market – on the quantity or gross value of the output of sodium compounds and related products from Federal land. The current rate is 6 percent. The new rate would apply for 5 years following enactment. No cost estimate was available at the time of the preparation of this *Budget Week*. It is unclear what impact this bill will have on the Federal budget.

4) To Convey for Public Purposes Certain Federal Lands in Riverside County, California, That Have Been Identified for Disposal (H.R. 3874).



This bill conveys 44 acres of Federal lands in Riverside County, CA, to a private nonprofit organization. The organization would use those lands to provide shelter, training, and other assistance to homeless individuals. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

5) To Amend the Act of November 2, 1966 (80 Stat. 1112), to Allow Binding Arbitration Clauses to be Included in All Contracts Affecting the Land Within the Salt River Pima-maricopa Indian Reservation (H.R. 4115).



This bill allows the Pima-Maricopa tribe to include binding arbitration clauses in all contracts affecting the land within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation. Under current law, the tribe is not allowed to incorporate such clauses in contracts that include subleases, master leases, and tenant leases. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

6) To Amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to Increase the Ceiling on the Federal Share of the Costs of Phase I of the Orange County, California, Regional Water Reclamation Project (H.R. 1156).



This bill adds \$60 million to the amounts authorized for the Federal share of phase I of the Orange County, CA, Regional Water Reclamation Project. At present, the maximum Federal share for this project is \$20 million. The Federal Government has spent \$11 million on the project to date. The amounts authorized in this bill are subject to appropriations, and the bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

- 7) **Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility Transfer Act** (H.R. 2831). This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to treat the payment authorized under Public Law 107-339 as a payment for the transfer of 35.6 acres of the Newlands Reclamation Project to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. Under that law, the Secretary will convey 6.3 acres of the Newlands Project, known as the Fallon rail freight loading facility, to the city of Fallon, NE, at fair market value. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 8) **Gateway Communities Cooperation Act** (H.R. 1014). This bill authorizes of \$20 million a year, subject to appropriations, for programs to promote the involvement of local communities in Federal land-use planning. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 9) *Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2003* (H.R. 2619). This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land for inclusion in the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge in Hawaii. Implementing H.R. 2619 will cost \$6 million in 2005 and \$18 million over the next 5 years, subject to appropriations. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 10) *Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Initiative* (H.R. 2991).

 This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of the Inland Empire regional water recycling project and the Cucamonga County Water District pilot satellite recycling plant. It authorizes \$30 million for the Federal share of both projects, subject to appropriations. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 11) To Authorize the Exchange of Certain Land in Everglades National Park (H.R. 3785). This bill authorizes the National Park Service [NPS] to acquire lands for the Everglades National Park in Florida. It allows the NPS to acquire 1,050 acres through a four-way exchange with the General Services Administration, Dade County, and a local water district. The bill authorizes the agency to purchase, subject to later appropriations, up to 10 acres situated outside of the park's East Everglades area. That property would be developed to provide employee housing and other park facilities. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 12) Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Designation Act of 2004 (H.R. 3819). This bill redesignates the Fort Clatsop National Memorial in Oregon as the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and expands its boundaries to include three sites in the State of Washington. It authorizes the National Park Service to acquire real property within the boundaries of the historical park by purchase, donation, exchange, or transfer. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 13) Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Project (H.R. 142).



This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program – in the Inland Empire Water Recycling Project – assisting agencies in projects to construct regional brine lines in California. It also authorizes the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area desalination demonstration and reclamation project. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

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14) To Amend Public Law 99-338 to Authorize the Continued Use of Certain Lands Within the Sequoia National Park by Portions of an Existing Hydroelectric Project (H.R. 3932). This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to renew a permit that allows portions of a hydroelectric project to operate within the Sequoia National Park in California. The current permit expires in 2006. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

15) To Provide for the Conveyance to the Government of Mexico of a Decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ship (H.R. 4158).



This bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to convey the WHITING, a decommissioned survey vessel, to the government of Mexico. This bill could result in an insignificant loss of offsetting receipts, assuming the ship could have been sold absent this legislation; but such receipts would be well under \$500,000.

- 16) **Department of the Interior Volunteer Recruitment Act of 2004** (H.R. 4170). This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to recruit and use volunteers to assist with programs carried out by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Office of the Secretary. It authorizes the Secretary to provide for services and expenses incidental to the use of those volunteers as well as coverage for tort claim liability and workers' compensation. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 17) **Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act** (H.R. 4259). This bill requires the President to appoint a Chief Financial Officer, to be confirmed by the Senate, to oversee the financial accounting practices of the Department of Homeland Security [DHS]. It requires DHS to submit a performance and accountability report and an audit of its internal financial controls to the Office of Management and Budget and to the Congress. The bill also establishes an Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation in DHS, and requires the department to prepare a national homeland security strategy each year. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 18) National Archives and Records Administration Efficiency Act of 2003 (H.R. 3478). This bill allows the National Archives and Records Administration [NARA] to extend the length of time agencies can hold particular Federal records. It also authorizes NARA to purchase uniforms for employees, to retain and spend fees for the public use of NARA facilities, and to enter into cooperative agreements with public and nonprofit organizations to further NARA programs. The bill does not increase direct spending, but may cause a nominal reduction in revenue.
- 19) To Name the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic Located in Peoria, Illinois, as the "Bob Michel Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic" (H.R. 4608). This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.



- 20) *United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims* (H.R. 3936).

 This bill amends title 38, United States Code, to authorize the principal office of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to be at any location in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, rather than only in the District of Columbia. The bill also expresses the sense of Congress that a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center should be provided for that Court and
- 21) Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2004 (H.R. 4175). This bill increases the amounts paid to veterans for disability compensation and to their survivors for dependency and indemnity compensation by the same cost-of-living adjustment [COLA] payable to Social Security recipients. The increase would take effect on 1 December 2004, and the results of the adjustment would be rounded to the next lower dollar. In addition, the bill would add osteoporosis to the list of diseases presumed to be service-connected for former prisoners-of-war. The COLA is already assumed in the budget resolution, but by adding treatment for osteoporosis as a new benefit, this bill could

those it serves, and should be situated, if feasible, at a site owned by the United States that is part of or proximate to the Pentagon Reservation. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

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increase direct spending by \$1 million over 5 years, but this cost could be offset with enactment of H.R. 1460, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Benefits Improvement, which reduced direct spending.

22) Providing for the Appointment of Eli Broad as a Citizen Regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (S.J.Res. 38).



This bill provides for the appointment of Eli Broad as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, to fill the vacancy resulting from the death of Barber B. Conable Jr. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

23) To Authorize Construction of a Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Instrumentation Support Control Building and Associated Site Development on Kitt Peak, Arizona (S. 2362).



This bill authorizes the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to develop a site for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory instrumentation support control building to support the collaborative Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System project on Kitt Peak near Tucson, Arizona. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

24) To Permit the Librarian of Congress to Hire Library of Congress Police Employees (H.R. 4816).



This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

25) To Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to Simplify the Taxation of Businesses (H.R. 4840).

No information was available on this bill as of the preparation of this *Budget Week*, and no estimate had been made available. The bill may have some effect on revenue collection, but it is unlikely such an effect will cause the level of revenue to be less than that provided for in the budget resolution.

26) To Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to Simplify Certain Tax Rules for Individuals (H.R. 4841).

No information was available on this bill as of the preparation of this Budget Week and no estimate had been made available. The bill may have some effect on revenue collection, but it is unlikely such an effect will cause the level of revenue to be less than that provided for in the budget resolution.

27) Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2003 (S. 741).



This bill is intended to increase the market availability of new animal drugs for minor species and for minor uses in major species of animals. It amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize the Food and Drug Administration to establish a conditional approval process for such drugs, and to create an index of legally marketed unapproved drugs to treat certain minor species. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

28) Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2004 (H.R. 4600).



This bill directs the Federal Communications

Commission [FCC] to issue regulations to control unsolicited advertisement sent via telephone facsimile machine. It requires the FCC and the Government Accountability Office to issue reports to the Congress on the effectiveness of these regulations. The FCC currently enforces laws relating to unsolicited advertisements, including assessing and collecting civil penalties for violations of such laws. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

29) Supporting the Goals of National Marina Day and Urging Marinas to Continue Providing Environmentally Friendly Gateways to Boating (H.Res. 647).



This resolution has no budget implications.

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30) To Designate the Federal Building and United States Courthouse Located at 615 East Houston Street in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and United States Courthouse" (H.R. 3884).



This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

- 31) Commercial Aviation MANPADS Defense Act of 2004 (H.R. 4056). This bill encourages steps to protect commercial aircraft from the threat of portable, shoulder-launched missiles (commonly known as MANPADS). The Department of Homeland Security [DHS] is currently developing technologies to combat MANPADS. The bill requires the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] to support DHS's efforts by certifying the airworthiness of those technologies. According to the FAA, the agency already plans to do most of that work under current law. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 32) **North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004** (H.R. 4011). This bill expresses Congressional concern about the human rights of North Koreans and authorizes funding for assistance to North Koreans and to organizations promoting human rights in that region. The bill authorizes funds to provide humanitarian assistance to North Koreans, provide grants to private, nonprofit organizations to promote human rights, democracy, rule of law, and the development of a market economy in North Korea. The bill also provides certain immigration protections and benefits to North Koreans who have been persecuted by the North Korean regime. The benefits are not expected to have a cost. The bill could affect certain fees, but not significantly.
- 33) Urging the Government of the Republic of Belarus to Ensure a Democratic, Transparent, and Fair Election Process for its Parliamentary Elections in the Fall of 2004 (H.Res. 652). This resolution has no budget implications.
- 34) To Amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to Extend the Authority to Provide Assistance to Countries Seeking to Become Eligible Countries for Purposes of That Act (H.R. 4660).

This bill permanently extends the limit on the amount of assistance to certain countries provided under the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003. Specifically, it limits to no more than 10 percent of the total appropriated for the act in any year the amount that may be provided to low-income countries that demonstrate a significant commitment to meet the requirements for eligibility under that act, and still fail to meet the requirements. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

- 35) Recognizing the Importance in History of the 150th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between the United States and Japan (H.Con.Res. 418). This resolution has no budget implications.
- 36) Celebrating 10 Years of Majority Rule in the Republic of South Africa and Recognizing the Momentous Social and Economic Achievements of South Africa since the Institution of Democracy in That Country (H.Con.Res. 436).

 This resolution has no budget implications.
- 37) Condemning the Attack on the Amia Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994 and Expressing the Concern of the United States Regarding the Continuing, Decade-long Delay in the Resolution of this Case (H.Con.Res. 469). This resolution has no budget implications.

Prepared by The Committee on the Budget